



Public Psychiatric Inpatient Needs in Travis County

- ✚ Travis County Average Daily Census at ASH (civil and forensic): 70
 - Range: 33-102

Travis County Census Rate Frequencies at ASH

Census Rate	# Days During FY 2007
30-50	10
51-60	26
61-70	103
71-80	118
81-90	86
91-100	21
101-110	1

- ✚ Balancing psychiatric hospital bed utilization and overall resources
 - Too many beds pulls resources away from community based services, increasing the need for more hospital beds.
 - ❖ *If we had 102 beds for the system in FY'07, ASH would never have been on diversion, but beds would have been under-utilized on all but one day of the year.*
 - Too few beds places burdens on emergency rooms and general medical hospitals.
 - ❖ *If we had 70 beds for the system in FY'07, ASH would have been on diversion 50% of the time.*

- ✚ Based on FY'07 utilization and service delivery array, estimated needed number of civil capacity beds is 99.2
 - 23 civil beds at ASH (maximum capacity 63-40 forensic—see below)
 - 9.2 civil beds at Seton Shoal Creek/Lakes
 - 67 additional civil beds at an alternate location

- ✚ Forensic bed capacity changing
 - FY'07 data included relatively few forensic beds
 - This number is growing, as a result of a lawsuit
 - Current utilization estimates need for **40 forensic beds per day** at ASH
 - ATCMHMR has little control over utilization of these beds

- ✚ **Total Estimated Need: 139.2**
 - 99.2 Civil Beds
 - 40 Forensic Beds
 - **Unmet Need: 67 beds**



Methodology:

In FY07 (Sep 06-Aug 07) Austin Travis County MHMR Center admitted to Austin State Hospital based on acute clinical need rather than bed availability.¹ There was no program diverting patients to local Emergency Departments. If we review our experience during that period we may have a method of determining a benchmark for inpatient psychiatric needs for the future. It is important to note that this estimate is based on the service delivery system in place in FY 07. As new transitional housing, substance abuse treatment, outpatient treatment and crisis resources become available we may find that demands on inpatient resources change. If that is the case, then our model provides a framework for recalculating our inpatient needs.

1. Average Daily Census at Austin State Hospital in FY 07 was 70. Note, this census largely excludes forensic cases. However, if the Center operated only 70 beds, then roughly 50% of the time, we would be on diversion as we exceeded the census of 70. Similarly, roughly 50% of the time we'd be under the 70.

In order to get a better sense of utilization, we analyzed the frequency of any given census. The attached graph represents this analysis. The X axis represents the range of daily census for Travis County at Austin State Hospital. The corresponding point above it represents the number of times that census occurred during the year. For example: once during FY 07 Travis County had a census of 33 patients at ASH; we had a census of 63 on 19 occasions.

ASH does not have capacity to expand beyond the ATCMHMR allocation of 63 beds. Expansion of bed capacity would require finding another site to meet the need. If we picked a target of 102 beds for the system, ASH would never have been on diversion, but, arguably that would be more beds than needed as that census was only reached one time. Being "over-bedded" from a psychiatric perspective is just as problematic as being "under-bedded," as it pulls resources away from community based services that prevent the need for hospitalization. Again, there was no program to divert to local Emergency Departments. If we had capacity for 90 beds at ASH, we would have had to divert admissions to an ED 22 times as there would be no available beds. This represents less than twice monthly through the year.

2. Forensic Average Daily Census at Austin State Hospital 12/1/07-4/18/08 was 37. In December, DSHS began aggressively moving forensic patients out of jails and

¹ This policy changed in late 2007 because of new state requirements that ATCMHMR pay the state back for utilization over the allocated bed capacity.



into state mental health facilities in response to a lawsuit regarding long waits in the jail for transfer to a psychiatric hospital. This reached its peak activity in January and has stayed relatively steady since. Based upon current utilization after this change, we estimate that the needed forensic capacity for individuals who have been found incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity is 40 beds per day. This will require some further analysis over time, as ATCMHMR is developing an outpatient restoration of competency program that may impact forensic bed day utilization. It is important to note that, while ATCMHMR must absorb these forensic hospitalizations into their bed day allocation, they have little control over admissions, length of stay, transfers and discharges.

3. Public Capacity outside of Austin State Hospital FY 07 was 9.2 beds per day. This capacity at Seton Shoal Creek Hospital was jointly funded by Travis County Healthcare District (8 beds) and Austin Travis County MHMR Center (1.2 beds). These beds were usually operated at capacity throughout the year.

Using the projected number of 90 public hospital beds for civil commitments, in addition to the current 9.2 public hospital beds at Seton Shoal Creek and the Lakes, we arrive at an estimated need for 99.2 public psychiatric beds for non-forensic purposes. This would be in addition to the estimated need for 40 forensic beds daily. The table below compares our current capacity with the projected capacity.

Facility	Current Capacity	Estimated Need
ASH Forensic	40	40
ASH Civil	23	23
Seton Shoal Creek/Lakes	9.2	9.2
Future facility/capacity	Non-existent	67
Total	72.2	139.2

In summary, we determine the current public psychiatric inpatient capacity (civil and forensic) in our community to be 72.2 beds. The actual need based on FY 07 population is 139.2 (civil and forensic). This represents a gap of 67 beds.

For ongoing planning and adjustment with population growth, we need to develop a rate per 100,000. The estimated population of Travis County in 2006 was 921, 006 (most recent figures from the U.S. Census Bureau). Taking the projected 139.2 beds for the county and rounding to 140 for simplicity, this represents 15 public psychiatric hospital beds/100,000 population ($140/9.21 = 15.2$).